

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Stick-type connected nails **comprising:** ~~formed by~~
~~arranging~~

a plurality of nails in parallel and in an equidistant manner,

connecting bands glued to a shaft portion of each of said nails,

wherein said nails are connected to each other by **the** ~~gluing~~ connecting bands ~~to a~~
~~shaft portion of each of said nails, wherein said connecting bands are glued to said shaft~~
~~portions of said nails~~ **located** at positions in the vicinity of **substantially near** an upper
end and a lower end of each of said shaft portions, ~~and~~

wherein ~~plural sheets of the stick-type connected nails are loaded superposed in a~~
~~multiple loading-type nail magazine such that the vertical position of respective heads~~
~~thereof is offset~~ **such that when the stick-type connected nails are superposed**
adjacent to other stick-type connected nails, the vertical position of respective heads
thereof are offset.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to Claim **claim**
1, wherein said connecting bands are made of paper.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to Claim **claim**
1, wherein said connecting bands are made of resin.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein said connecting bands are provided on both sides of said shaft portions ~~in the vicinity of~~ substantially near both said upper end and said lower end of each of said shaft portions.

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Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein said connecting bands are provided on both sides of said shaft portions substantially near ~~in the vicinity of~~ said upper end of each of said shaft portions and on one side of said shaft portions substantially near ~~in the vicinity of~~ said lower end of each of said shaft portions.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein said connecting bands are provided on one side of said shaft portions substantially near ~~in the vicinity of~~ both said upper end and said lower end of each of said shaft portions.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to ~~Claim~~ claim 6, wherein said connecting band is substantially near ~~in the vicinity of~~ said lower end of each of said shaft portions is and glued to surfaces opposite to surfaces to which said connecting band in the vicinity of said upper end of each of said shaft portions is glued.

13/ Excluded

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The stick-type connected nails according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the lower end of each of said shaft portions of said nails contact the lower end connecting bands of at least one other adjacent stick-type connected nails of its adjacent sheets in said magazine.
